

## **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WEEKLY UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF November 17, 2008**

### **Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster**

This was a busy fall for Ag teachers and their programs. Many FFA members and advisors attended the 81<sup>st</sup> National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October. The convention broke records, with nearly 55,000 in attendance.

This fall, regional workshops were held around the state relating to the National Quality Program Standards. Teams of three attended the training sessions - the classroom instructor, an administrator and an advisory council/community member, represented almost seventy percent of the Ag programs. If your school was NOT able to take part in these trainings, additional sessions will be held this spring. As we know more details, we will let you know.

Work has begun developing model pathways in the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources area (note the name change). We are now forming a pathways advisory council. Once model Pathways/Programs of Study are developed, they will be released for local schools to adapt to their own setting and adopt.

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## **Health Sciences Career Cluster**

### **Health Sciences Technology Education Update**

September and October have been filled with exciting activities in Health Sciences!

- I attended the HOSA State Advisor Meeting in Washington DC and met with colleagues from across the country regarding ideas to strengthen our CTSOs.
- Bresnan Communications is interested in assisting in the development of a health sciences Interactive TV course. Initial conversations with Great Falls School District and Bresnan took place on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>.
- I attended a workshop with “Project Lead the Way” in biomedical sciences. This is a rigorous four year curriculum that includes four years of science and math in addition to four years of health sciences coursework. Contact me for more information on this exciting program.
- The National Consortium of Health Sciences Technology Educators held a biennial curriculum conference that I attended in Raleigh, NC. A new two semester on-line course was recently developed that I am pursuing for our rural schools.
- Our MACTE conference was a great success. TJ Eyer (CTAE Division Administrator) and I presented a workshop on the 15 Critical Components for Implementing Career Clusters. If you missed our presentation, feel free to contact me for the PowerPoint or handout.
- Our HOSA chapters recently participated in the HOSA Fall Leadership training, hosted at Helena High School. Shannon Stober shared her expertise on leadership styles and Becky Henne gave a presentation on customer service called “Serving Out Loud”.
- Twin Bridges and Whitehall High School teachers participated in a health sciences mentoring program with Manny Garza at Helena High School.
- Licensure revisions for an endorsement in Health Sciences is under consideration to qualify science and health enhancement teachers to teach health sciences courses.
- Four hospitals have agreed to provide chapter advisors for new HOSA groups in rural areas. This is a pilot project to increase student exploration in health careers.

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## **Family and Consumer Sciences Education Human Services & Resources Career Cluster**

The development of the Human Services & Resources Cluster for Big Sky Pathways is underway. The development team consists of Megan Anderson from OPI, Alyssa Townsend-Hudders from OCHE, and Bernie Phelps from Montana Tech. The group is in the initial stages of forming an advisory council and identifying the initial pathways to be developed.

Many schools have been participating in FCCLA Fall District Meetings around the state. The meetings offer leadership development and educational opportunities for students as well facilitating the election of new district and state officers. For the second year in a row, Montana FCCLA is raising money for the March of Dimes as the State Outreach Project. Students have been busy with this promotion as November is National March of Dimes month.

### **Billings Career Center Presentation at ACTE**

Leslyn Wahl, a FCS teacher at the Billings Career Center, will be giving a presentation at the national Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Convention in North Carolina on December 6. The "About Finding A Job" presentation will cover the steps to implement an employment preparation program for the total school population with minimal budgetary impact. It will cover how to train/facilitate staff in presentation and grading rubrics; beginning with resumes/cover letters and continuing through interviews/salary negotiations. Included will be online resources, power point teaching units, teaching handouts, downloadable motivational videos and steps to get your community human resource personnel involved and trained for the final student interview process. This program will give the schools the ability to immediately implement an exciting way to impact their student's lives by helping them be a step above other high school job seekers.

This program has been a powerful tool for the past three years in the largest Montana high school district, Billings. The Billings Career Center also received the National Pinnacle Award, given by Society of Human Resource Managers, 2005-2006 school year for designing and implementing this program.

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## **Industrial, Manufacturing & Engineering Systems Cluster**

Kevin Brockbank presented 13 pathway models to the advisory committee on November 17. He will make recommended changes to the models and present at a follow-up meeting in early December. Advisory board members are being designated to complete an in-depth review on two models each. Post-secondary links to two-year programs have been completed; transferability to four-year programs and apprentice opportunities to be added in modifications.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2008.

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